

# Sylvanus Bourne Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2003

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009055>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013367>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Sylvanus Bourne Papers

**Span Dates:** 1775-1859

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1800-1815)

**ID No.:** MSS13367

**Creator:** Bourne, Sylvanus, 1761-1817

**Extent:** 4100 items ; 39 containers ; 6.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and French

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Massachusetts businessman and United States consul in Santo Domingo (1790-1791) and in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1794-1817). Drafts and photocopies of Bourne's personal and diplomatic correspondence, business and commercial papers, a scrapbook, and account books. Consists primarily of correspondence relating to commerce between the United States and European countries, primarily France and Great Britain, and United States foreign relations and politics. Other material concerns Bourne's business in Massachusetts and the Bourne family.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.

Alexander, Lawson--Correspondence.

Bourne family--Correspondence.

Bourne, Sylvanus, 1761-1817.

Codman, Richard, 1762-1806--Correspondence.

Curtis, George Rix--Correspondence.

Forbes, John Murray, 1771-1831--Correspondence.

Forman, Joseph, active 1800--Correspondence.

Gregory, George John--Correspondence.

Harris, Levett--Correspondence.

Maury, James, 1746-1840--Correspondence.

Mountflorencia, James C.--Correspondence.

Murray, William Vans, 1760-1803--Correspondence.

Pitcairn, Joseph--Correspondence.

Ridgway, J. (Jacob)--Correspondence.

Robertson, J., active 1803--Correspondence.

Rohan, H.--Correspondence.

Russell, Jonathan, 1771-1832--Correspondence.

Swan, James, 1820-1895--Correspondence.

Warden, David Bailie, 1772-1845--Correspondence.

Worsdell, William--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Netherlands.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

### Places

Europe--Commerce--United States.

France--Commerce--United States.

Great Britain--Commerce--United States.

Massachusetts--Commerce.

United States--Commerce--Europe.

United States--Commerce--France.

United States--Commerce--Great Britain.  
United States--Commerce--History--19th century.  
United States--Foreign relations--1783-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

### **Occupations**

Businessmen.  
Diplomats.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Provenance**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne, businessman and United States consul in Santo Domingo and in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1903, 1952, and 1966.

### **Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Sylvanus Bourne is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Sylvanus Bourne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne (1761-1817) span the years 1775-1859 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1800 to 1815. The papers consist of drafts and photocopies of Bourne's personal and diplomatic correspondence, business and commercial papers, a scrapbook, and account books.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Bourne and other American consular officers in European ports relating to commerce between the United States and European countries, primarily France and Great Britain. Bourne's correspondence addresses depredations on American commerce and includes letters from his colleagues in other European cities. Among the correspondents are Lawson Alexander, Richard Codman, George Rix Curtis, John Murray Forbes, Joseph Forman, George John Gregory, Levett Harris, James Maury, Joseph Pitcairn, J. Ridgway, J. Robertson, H. Rohan, and William Worsdell. Other correspondents include John Quincy Adams, James C. Mountflorencia, William Vans Murray, Jonathan Russell, James Swan, and David Bailie Warden.

Other topics concern United States foreign relations and politics and Bourne's business in Massachusetts. The collection also includes family correspondence and a scrapbook with material relating to Thomas Jefferson, Tobias Lear, and George Washington.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

Almost all of the material in this collection has been bound in volumes arranged chronologically.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1</b>	Bound volumes
<b>BOX 1</b>	1775, Oct. 10-1792, Jan. 15
<b>BOX 2</b>	1792, Jan. 19-1795, Nov. 24
<b>BOX 3</b>	1795, Nov. 25-1797, Jan. 27
<b>BOX 4</b>	1797, Jan. 30-Nov. 20
<b>BOX 5</b>	1797, Nov. 22-1798, Oct. 1
<b>BOX 6</b>	1798, Oct. 4-1799, Dec. 6
<b>BOX 7</b>	1799, Dec. 7-1800, Aug. 1
<b>BOX 8</b>	1800, Aug. 2-1801, Jan. 26
<b>BOX 9</b>	1801, Jan. 27-Apr. 27
<b>BOX 10</b>	1801, Apr. 28-Aug. 10
<b>BOX 11</b>	1801, Aug. 11-1802, Mar. 2
<b>BOX 12</b>	1802, Mar. 6-Dec. 10
<b>BOX 13</b>	1802, Dec. 13-1803, Nov. 3
<b>BOX 14</b>	1803, Nov. 3-1804, Mar. 9
<b>BOX 15</b>	1804, Mar. 11-Aug. 1
<b>BOX 16</b>	1804, Aug. 2-Nov. 12
<b>BOX 17</b>	1804, Nov. 13-1805, Mar. 26
<b>BOX 18</b>	1805, Mar. 27-July 21
<b>BOX 19</b>	1805, July 22-Dec. 22
<b>BOX 20</b>	1805, Dec. 23-1806, July 11
<b>BOX 21</b>	1806, July 12-1807, Jan. 7
<b>BOX 22</b>	1807, Jan. 17-July 22
<b>BOX 23</b>	1807, July 23-Oct. 19
<b>BOX 24</b>	1807, Oct. 20-1808, Jan. 8
<b>BOX 25</b>	1808, Jan. 9-May 19
<b>BOX 26</b>	1808, May 21-1809, Apr. 7
<b>BOX 27</b>	1809, Apr. 10-Aug. 2
<b>BOX 28</b>	1809, Aug. 3-Sept. 24
<b>BOX 29</b>	1809, Sept. 25-1810, Apr. 10
<b>BOX 30</b>	1810, Apr. 17-1811, July 2
<b>BOX 31</b>	1811, July 3-Dec. 8
<b>BOX 32</b>	1811, Dec. 11-1812, Nov. 28
<b>BOX 33</b>	1812, Nov. 30-1815, Jan. 5
<b>BOX 34</b>	1815, Jan. 9-1816, Jan. 22
<b>BOX 35</b>	1816, Jan. 26-1859, Apr. 1
<b>BOX 36-38</b>	Undated
<b>BOX 39</b>	Unbound material
<b>BOX 39</b>	Account books, 1799-1813, undated (3 folders)
<b>BOX 39</b>	General, 1791-1826, undated

## Container List

*Container*

*Contents*

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BOX 39

Notebook, undated

BOX 39

Scrapbook, undated